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# AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL

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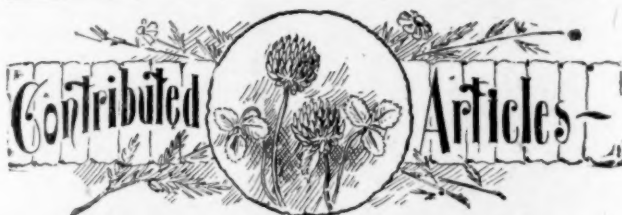
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## Working for Comb Honey—Swarming,

BY G. M. DOOLITTLE.

In my last article on working for comb honey, I spoke in brief about swarming, told something of when it should be done, how after-swarming could be prevented, and something about putting on sections. In this I will tell more minutely about how I manage swarms and swarming, and also how I often make an artificial increase with those which do not swarm up to the latest date that would make natural swarming profitable.

If we have worked along the lines given in previous articles, our hives will be well filled with bees in time for the honey harvest, and in order to meet with the best success swarming must be done up before the height of the season arrives, as I have already hinted at. Some seem to think that a larger amount of section honey can be secured where bees are not allowed to swarm, but I think this a mistaken idea, for the swarm and old colony, if rightly managed, will do as much separately as they would kept together, and, beside, if we tried to keep them together by cutting out queen-cells, etc., we would only delay swarming so it would come during the last half of the honey harvest, when it would be the most detrimental to our interests.

All of my early swarms are hived singly in a hive having five empty combs in it, as I usually have plenty of such on hand, and the sections transferred from the parent colony to the new swarm. At the end of 21 to 24 days, these five combs are spread apart and four empty combs put in each alternate space, so that there is no danger of these early swarms swarming again, and thus room is also given for the storing of sufficient honey for wintering. My hive holds nine frames, and the insertion of these four combs fills out the hive. If I used any other number of combs I would insert a number to make the full capacity of the hive, at this time.

By early swarms, as spoken of above, I mean those which come from 10 to 15 days before the honey harvest. Those coming from 5 to 8 days later are united so two are placed in a hive filled with comb foundation, the sections being set from the old colony which is moved away, on the doubled swarm. In this case one of the hives casting a swarm is taken to a new location, and the old queen belonging thereto is put back,

hiving the double swarm on the stand it previously occupied. The hive furnishing the queen for the doubled swarms, is not disturbed in eight days, when it is treated as I gave in my last article on this subject. All that have not swarmed at the commencement of the honey harvest are made to swarm in this manner:

A hive is filled with frames of empty combs and placed upon the stand of one of the colonies which have not swarmed, and all the sections are taken off and placed thereon; then all the bees are shaken and brushed off their combs of brood and honey in front of this prepared hive. Thus, we have the queen, bees, partly-filled sections, etc., which makes a colony ready for business at once. Previous to this, nuclei have been formed, so that I have plenty of laying queens to use as I may need them.

I now take all the combs from which the bees were brushed except one, and arrange them back in the hive, carrying it to the stand of another colony which has not swarmed. I next take the comb of brood which was left out, and go to a nucleus, taking out the frame having the laying queen on it, and put the comb of brood in its place. I now take the frame, bees, queen and all, and set it in the place left vacant for it when arranging the combs of brood. I next put on the proper amount of sections, and when all is complete move the colony not having swarmed to a new stand and set the prepared hive in its place. Thus I have a laying queen and enough of her own bees to protect her, combs full of brood, and all of the field or old bees from the removed colony, which makes a colony which is ready to go into the sections in a few days. The removed colony has simply lost the old or field bees, so as to stop the swarming impulse, and in a week will be ready for work in the sections again.

All colonies allowed to swarm naturally rear their own queens, contrary to the advice generally given, "that no colony should be allowed to go queenless at this season of the year by waiting for queen-cells to hatch," for, after repeated trials, I have come to the conclusion that better results can be secured by allowing the old colonies to rear their own queen than by giving them a laying queen immediately after swarming. As there is plenty of room given for storing in the brood-chamber as fast as the young bees hatch out, the honey is mostly stored below till the queen is fertilized, when it is at once removed to the sections to give her room to deposit eggs. In such cases I have frequently had a whole set of sections (60 pounds) filled and completed in 12 days.

As there is little honey secured in this locality after Aug. 10, if a laying queen was kept in the hive all of the time, the bees from her eggs would hatch in a time to only swell the number of consumers without being any profit, and much honey would be used in feeding the larvæ for these useless consumers; besides, such a colony usually takes the swarm-

ing-fever again so as to thwart the plans we have made. Where a person has a continuous honey harvest, then it is well to rear bees in abundance all of the season, but if I am well-informed, very few have such a locality.

All agree that it is a waste of time, honey and vitality, for bees to rear a lot of non-producing drones, and many articles have been given showing how this may be avoided, and I believe it is equally as absurd to rear a host of consuming workers out of season, and I have given in the above some of the things which give me this belief. Borodino, N. Y.



### Bee-Keepers Not Suffering from Over-Production of the Honey Product.

BY H. F. COLEMAN.

I have read with much interest the article of Mr. Doolittle on page 163, with reference to over-production, but I cannot say that I was greatly surprised at the range of prices of honey from the year 1874 to the present—a period of 22 years. It is true that the difference between 28 to 30 cents per pound obtained in 1874, and 13 to 15 cents per pound obtained at present, is very large, but in my opinion the trouble is not in the over-production of honey, but in the increased production of other luxuries and necessities of life, combined with a contraction of the currency of the country. It is perhaps true that there is more honey produced now than in the year 1874, but not to a greater extent than the increase in the population of the country, and this being true, everything else being equal, there should be no very great difference in the prices or demand for honey. But everything else is not equal. There has been a great increase in the production of the fruits and sugars, and these combined, at their present low prices, to a great extent, have supplanted honey, and form the principal table-luxuries of the people.

It is a rule, founded in economy, that the human family will use and subsist upon the cheaper commodities, if the cheaper commodities will meet the ends in view. And this rule applies with unusual force at a time like this, when there is a stringency in money matters.

If Mr. Doolittle will reflect for a moment, he will remember that there has been a gradual decline in prices, of nearly all kinds of products, since 1874. Wheat, corn, pork, beef, potatoes and other farm products have declined to an extent that is almost alarming, and we should not be surprised to see honey in the wake.

And there is still another rule, founded in economy, that has its influence on the prices of honey. Honey is a luxury, and when men are in the straits, financially, they curtail expenses, and the luxuries are the first to be dispensed with.

It is not my purpose in this article to say anything with reference to my views as to the causes of the present financial depression, but we can see that it is very desirable to beekeepers that we have an era of prosperity—an era that will place within the reach of all the real luxuries of life. When this time comes, honey will again be sought after as an article of consumption, and the good old days of the long ago will in a measure be restored. I say in a measure, for I do not believe with the increased production of sugar and fruits, which are so easily turned into marmalades, jellies, and other luxuries, that honey will ever again be in as good demand for table use as in days gone by.

I usually sell my honey at home and in neighboring towns, and the demand is always graded by the supply of fruit, and the ability of my friends to buy. A few years ago (1885) my crop was the largest I ever had, but the fruit crop in my section was a failure, and the entire honey crop went off at fine prices before cold weather.

Last year my crop was medium, but the fruit crop was

large, and the result is, I have several hundred pounds of nice white honey still on hand.

Notwithstanding the low prices and comparatively small demand for honey, I do not mean to give up bee-keeping! Neither do I believe that Mr. Doolittle will give it up. The value of a product is not measured alone by the dollars and cents it will bring, but by the buying capacity of what it does bring. Twenty years ago, when we were getting fancy prices for our honey, we were paying the same kind of prices for what we bought. At that time we paid at least one dollar per bushel for wheat, and other things in proportion, and now it will not take a greater number of pounds of honey to buy a bushel of wheat than then. Of course, I mean generally speaking.

From what has been seen (from the above), we as beekeepers should not bemoan our fate alone, as to low prices, but should exercise that broad sympathy that will extend to all classes suffering from the same cause.

Sneedville, Tenn.



### Wax Experiments—Methods of Rendering: Quantity and Quality.

BY R. C. AIKIN.

How shall we render wax? How much can I get from a given number of combs, and what will be the quality? We do stick to old methods with wonderful tenacity, even when there are ways that are better. I have rendered wax with water and with steam, using several different ways of applying the heat. I have also used the solar way for 10 or 15 years. I have made at least five solar extractors, ranging in size from 18x30 inches to 6x6 feet. I have made them movable and stationary; built two of brick, the last one of which is built against the south side of my shop, and is 6x6 feet, all openings into it being in the shop. A furnace is also beneath to apply fire when needed.

Last year I had occasion to melt a lot of extracting-combs. I thought this a good opportunity to test the yield of wax from a given number of combs. I remember reading years ago (I think in Kretschmer's "Bee-Keepers' Guide") that an ordinary brood-chamber required about two pounds of wax to build the comb to fill it. The combs I had to melt were in part almost new, both natural base and foundation combs. Part had been used for brood, some quite black. I first put 100 bright combs into the solar, average Langstroth size combs, and got 20 pounds of wax. Two other lots of 100 each were melted separately, the least yield being 17 pounds.

The 100 brighter combs yielded 20 pounds after having been extracted from a few times; I would expect almost as good a yield from strictly new combs—probably a little less wax but a little whiter. The dark combs, I am sure, have as much wax in them, but the mass of cocoons carry with them probably about 1/10. The grade of wax from these three lots was almost the same, being a bright yellow. The wax left with the refuse is not entirely lost, for it makes fine fuel and kindling, thus making the dark combs almost if not quite as valuable as the brighter ones.

Some seem to think there is no better way to render than the submerged-sack method; but all things considered, the solar is far ahead of this method. The first saving is in time. I save all odds and ends, burr-combs, hive-scrappings and bottom-board litter, and put all in the solar. The very blackest old comb you may have—though not yielding as much wax as the meltings before-mentioned—will give a bright wax from the solar; but if put through water it will be very dark.

Of the afore-mentioned meltings I took about a half-bushel of the refuse and put it into a sack and submerged it in a can of water, boiled, stirred, punched and twisted the stuff, and yet I could not get enough wax to rise to make a



scum on the water. I then took the bag out and put it under the pressure of my own weight, and squeezed out  $\frac{3}{4}$  pound of wax—wax that was blacker than any I ever saw in the darkest brood-foundation. A few years ago I tried a similar plan on a lot of refuse, and got about 10 per cent. more wax that was quite dark, but in this case the solar work was rushed through, and the stuff not left to drain as it should, for I knew I was going to treat it again, and I wanted to get the wax out as quickly as possible. I suppose in the last 15 years I have produced 3,000 or 4,000 pounds of wax, the most of it going through the solar.

Another important point is the honey saved. Here and there are bits of candied honey, covered cells and bits that usually would be unnoticed, yet turn out quite a lot of honey that is saved for feeding. No care is needed in picking out patches of honey, for it will not be lost in the solar, but would be by the water method. I always accumulate from the solar more honey than wax. I always put a little water into the pan, for the evaporation would make the honey into taffy—too thick to pour.

The first mistake with apiarists is to make their solar wax-extractor too small. The next mistake is to make the box and sash of wood. Wood will not stand the extremes of heat, wet and dry. The putty will loosen and cracks open. I have a sash part wood and part iron. The iron stays all right, but the wood part is always more or less loose. The walls are of brick built upon the ground, and the inner parts of tin. It is 6 feet square, and fronts south. Were I to build again, I would make it longer east and west, or, what I think still better, build with the corners pointing north, east, west and south, making a hip roof with a southeast and southwest slope, and so get the sun all day. Large glass is not necessary. I have glass in mine that is not over 4 inches by 16. I use straight-edge glass and oil the joints, the glass butted—not lapped.

A large solar will also serve as a liquefying concern. Once in the month of March I liquefied a thousand pounds in two days. The honey was in three and five pound lard-pails, and all put in at one time. Fire was used beneath in this case, but where the cans of honey are spread over the solar so that the sun shines on each pail or can direct, the sun alone will do the work any ordinary clear summer day.

Should I continue to produce extracted honey, and have to liquefy the same, I would not do it with water or steam. An appliance for the use of hot air—much on the plan of an oven—will do the work just as well, and much cheaper, and any kind of a vessel can be put in. I have been using pails lacquered and stenciled, and it is no little satisfaction to be able to melt honey right in the pails when it has become candied in them. To set these pails in water would spoil the paint and lettering, but the dry hot air does no damage whatever.

Loveland, Colo.



### Planting for Honey Alone—Lindens.

BY R. S. RUSSELL.

In reply to Dr. Miller (see page 486, of the Bee Journal for 1895) on the above topic, I would say that he demands the proof that it will pay, and admits that he may have been led astray in joining the crusade against planting for honey, or making any effort to perpetuate or improve our great honey-plants. He says he is ready to recant, provided the proofs are given that he is wrong. Now, it seems to me we should have some evidence to prove that the Creator of the bee did not understand the proper food required for its sustenance before admitting so mischievous a theory to controversy.

Who will come forward and prove that it will not pay to plant 'or honey alone? I wish to see this evidence. Let's

see. The field of this locality contains at least 100 square miles for 100 colonies, and is growing larger as the flora decreases. This decrease has been so rapid in the last 40 years as to be utterly beyond computation, yet it is safe to say that for each acre of this field sown to honey-plants, 1,000 have been rendered as barren as any desert for honey. And for each honey-producing tree planted in the field, more than 1,000 of the very finest have been destroyed. Our honey industry has kept in line with the general destruction of the native flora, and the result is now visible to our people.

In this once famous honey-belt where dearths were unknown, with its countless numbers of prosperous colonies in skeps, boxes and logs of all sizes and varieties, and the hollow trees breaking down with their loads of honey, and bees on a parity with gold and silver, may now be seen a lot of old patent hives of all kinds piled up in fence-corners, with now and then a diminutive colony labeled "For Sale," or trade, and, like the poor tramp, they are looking for a job.

But with this great object lesson before our eyes, who is there yet to still declare that it will not pay to plant for honey, for they have tried it? How many square miles of honey-plants has he placed in the field to substitute for the thousands of acres of corn, wheat, oats, potatoes, rye, barley, timothy, blue-grass, sorghum and tobacco raised in his field annually? How many lindens, poplars, honey-locusts, sour-woods, willows, etc., did he use in the experiment to substitute for the thousands destroyed in his field annually? How many years were required for the experiment? These are factors that will bring the question to a point.

It is seen that sowing a few acres in buckwheat, or a small field of clover, or planting a few lindens, is no test whatever, and the fact remains that we must sow or we cannot reap.

I am asked to point to a successful case of planting for honey alone. I answer, the wise Creator gave us a most beautiful example in North America, where each locality was supplied with honey-plants suitable to its latitude before introducing the honey-bee, and that he designed they should be perpetuated there can be no doubt, as he supplied each variety with an abundance of seed, so constituted as to admit of almost endless improvement, which, unlike other plants, have been wholly neglected, and are now mostly destroyed, causing most disastrous results to the honey industry. The situation is not only strange, but alarming, as many bee-keepers now admit that the goose that laid the golden egg has been killed.

The Doctor asks, What shall we plant? I answer for our latitude:

First of all, lindens, for the following reasons: They are long-lived, native trees, very hardy, and originally produced more honey than all other plants and trees combined, and by proper selection of varieties they will give a steady flow for two months, with rare failure.

2nd. They are the most beautiful shade or ornamental tree on the earth, and require no trimming or pruning; but maintain a most beautiful form until death, when their bodies would again doubly repay the expense for rearing them, aside from the honey and shade.

Perhaps in other localities some other tree might be more suitable for the purpose. We have 1,000 miles of public roads on each 100 miles square—sufficient room for 650,000 lindens, or 2,000,000 to each county, or 182,000,000 in our State; and it is thought our Legislature, at its next session, will pass a law compelling all land-owners to plant suitable shade-trees on said roads, and if so, why can we not have the lindens? Surely we can, if we make proper effort.

I, for one, am sure that no man need fear a failure of honey with 250,000 nice lindens in reach of his bees. The Indiana State Bee-Keepers' Association, at its last session,

passed a ringing resolution endorsing planting for honey alone, also urging our Legislature and various park commissioners, and all citizens of our State, to use their entire influence in propagating our most beautiful and useful lindens.

Prof. Cook, on page 177, has given some very fine suggestions, and it is hoped others may follow. I think Mr. Doolittle, on page 188, gave about the correct answer to Query No. 7, in bee-parlance: The National hive is overstocked with drones, and they are devouring all the honey.

Zionsville, Ind.



## POISONOUS HONEY—DO BEES GATHER IT?

### SKEPTICAL ABOUT POISONOUS HONEY.

I have been much interested in the articles which have appeared in the American Bee Journal of late respecting poisonous honey. It is a subject in which I have been much interested for many years, and to which I have given no little attention. I have also received from time to time specimens of the so-called poisonous honey, and so have had good opportunity to examine and test it. I must say that I am very skeptical in regard to the matter. It is so easy to see how reports of poisonous honey would get abroad without any real facts to support them, that I think that we may all be cautious in coming to conclusions in this matter.

Probably what gave rise to this opinion more than any other one thing was the old account from Xenophon, I think, of soldiers in the old days eating poisonous honey and becoming very sick. I much question if this account should have the least influence in forming the opinion of any careful investigator. I can very readily understand how soldiers might be very generally and very seriously ill by eating even the best of honey. I know of an excellent case in point: At the Michigan Agricultural College the students have always been required to labor upon the farm. In the early days, I think it was in the winter of 1858, the students were so fortunate, or perhaps unfortunate, as to cut a bee-tree well filled with honey. It was just before noon, and as is generally the case of young men, all were very hungry. It was needless to say that the honey tasted very good, and that the students indulged their appetites without let or hindrance. It is just as true that at the recitation that afternoon there were very few students. There were, however, two or three score of very sick young men; many of them thought surely their last days had come. Had there been some Xenophon present, we should no doubt have had a thrilling account of poisonous honey.

Another reason that has had its influence in giving currency to the opinion that honey from certain flowers is poisonous, comes from the fact that certain plants are poisonous; thus people would easily reason that if the foliage was poisonous to animals eating it, or if it poisoned those who rubbed against it, why, of course, the honey or the pollen would be poisonous to bees! Thus, with no fact to support the theory, the theory is set afloat to be copied annually or oftener into some paper, and thus the view becomes established in our literature as a fact. There is as little ground for the conclusion in this case as in the other.

We can well see how that in the development of any plant poisonous qualities would be of service, and through the principle of "natural selection" might be secured by the plant. We see just such developments in the poisonous hairs and secretion of insects which serve to protect them from their enemies. Thus it would be of advantage to plants to secrete poisonous substances within the substance of their leaves or branches. This, however, would not be at all true in case of the pollen or nectar. It is an advantage, not a disadvantage, for the bees and other insects to come and gather the pollen or the nectar. Thus, while a plant might secrete poison in

its leaves and foliage, it could never do so on the principle of "natural selection" in its pollen and nectar. The flower wants to attract the sweet-loving insects and foster their visits in quest of nectar or pollen, and so we should never expect to find either the nectar or the pollen poisonous, at least to insects, whose friendly visits are always of service to the flowers. We see, then, that in the physiology of plants we can easily explain the presence of poison in twig and foliage, but to find it in nectar and pollen would be entirely exceptional and inexplicable.

Another argument in favor of the poisonous qualities of some honey comes from actual cases often reported by physicians and the press. These cases are generally from regions where the mountain laurel or *kalmia latifolia* grows. The fact that this plant is said to be poisonous to stock might naturally lead to the opinion that the honey from it would be poisonous as explained above. There are very good reasons to doubt the accuracy of these observations and reports. It is an unquestioned fact that in many regions along the Alleghany Mountains this mountain laurel is very abundant, and is visited profusely by the bees. Yet there is never any trouble from poisonous honey.

As we have already seen, even the best of honey, especially if eaten in undue quantities, may make any person sick, and often will make some people always sick. So we see it is easy to account for the sickness without deciding that the honey is necessarily poisonous. I have often, myself, known of cases where people have been made deathly sick by taking only a few teaspoonfuls of honey, and that of the best quality—honey that I could eat *ad libitum* without the least injurious effect. Suppose, then, that a person should eat heartily of honey in the region of the mountain laurel bloom; it is easy to see how some not over-scrupulous or over-cautious physician might start a first-class sensational report regarding poisonous honey.

But I have other evidence which to me is more conclusive than any yet offered. While in Michigan I received a large number of samples of the so-called poisonous honey; some of them were as white and beautiful as the white clover honey, and as agreeable to the taste; while others were bitter, and some of it dark as well as ill-flavored. In every case I ate freely of this honey, and according to reports am alive yet. I even went farther than this. I took the great risk to ask my friends to eat of this honey, and in no case was there the least ill effects from it. I have thus had honey from Pennsylvania, Eastern Tennessee, North Carolina and South Carolina, all of which was reported to be poisonous, and all of which, to my certain knowledge, was as wholesome as any honey.

Of course, we ought not to be dogmatic in any such matter. It is very easy for any of us to be mistaken, but from the facts given above, I have come to the conclusion that we need more and better evidence than we have yet had before we decide positively that the flowers secrete poisonous nectar.

To sum up: It is easy to see how reports of poisonous honey have become current from the very nature of honey, and without any basis of fact. It is also easy to see how that people given to theorizing might conclude that honey from certain flowers was poisonous without any real reason for doing so. Again, the fact that many of the so-called poisonous plants abound in regions where poisonous honey is never reported, gives a "black eye" to this theory. Lastly, actual tests of the very honey pronounced poisonous have failed to show the presence of poison.

A. J. Cook.

Claremont, Calif.

### PROBABLY POISONOUS POLLEN.

The communication from A. D. Watson, on page 220, on the subject of mountain laurel, was read with great interest. I have just learned from an old resident of this county, who is a close observer, of a case of poisoning from eating honey



taken from a bee-tree cut in the month of August, many years ago, about 50 miles south of this place. Two of the party died, but the third man recovered, and himself related the incident to my informant. He said that there was very little honey found in the tree, and that in eating it, they necessarily consumed a good deal of "bee-bread."

Perhaps in the above incident lies material for a reconciliation of conflicting theories as to poisonous honey. My own observation convinces me that honey gathered from mountain laurel is not poisonous. But history and many well-attested cases support the view that persons have been made sick while eating honey. Now, if the pollen gathered from plants of a toxic nature is poisonous, it would account for the effects said to be produced, and afford an opportunity for harmonizing opposing experiences.

I have seen some people eating comb honey from box-hives in which there were occasional cells filled with pollen and capped over. Though the taste in such cases is nauseous to my own palate, some persons are not much inconvenienced by the presence of a few cells of pollen. The soldiers of Xenophon, who came upon the bee-hives—perhaps after a long day's march, when they were tired and hungry to the last degree, probably in the scramble of each man for a morsel of honey-comb—did not stop to get rid of a cell of pollen here and there, and so numbers of them fell sick, and the poison which prostrated them may have been in the pollen and not in the honey.

My own firm belief is, that the Creator, who made the honey-bee for man's use, has so arranged the order of Nature that man will find in the use of the honey gathered by this insect nothing to destroy life. Pollen was not intended to be eaten. Its unpleasant taste under ordinary circumstances would cause it to be instantly rejected.

It is to be hoped that the editor will invite those of his readers who have had any experience "along this line," or who know of well-authenticated cases of poisoning from the use of honey, to make inquiries whether it was from eating comb or extracted honey, and if comb honey was consumed, whether pollen was not present in the honey eaten; and to report cases and compare notes in the American Bee Journal.

The occasional report of "death from eating poisonous honey" is not calculated to advance the market quotations. If the result of this investigation should crystallize into a conviction in the public mind that the only avenue of danger in any case is through consumption of honey in the comb when cells of pollen are present, it might be to the advantage of all.

Columbus, Miss.

• NOVICE.

#### NOT POSSIBLE FOR BEES TO STORE POISONOUS HONEY.

Like Novice, on page 146, I was for a long time skeptical concerning the theory of poisonous honey. Notwithstanding a few eminent ones have, all along, asserted that bees gather poisonous honey, and a few instances are recorded where persons have apparently been poisoned by it, I must assert that I do not believe it possible for a bee to store poisonous honey in her hive.

The bee was created for at least a two-fold purpose, viz.: First, for the transmission of pollen from one flower to another. Second, for gathering nectar from the flowers and storing it in combs for food for man.

While the instinct of the bee borders very closely upon reason, the possibility of her furnishing man with a poisonous diet was not left to instinct alone, but she was so constituted that any substance that would be poisonous to man would be poisonous to her. And the poisonous nectar (if there be such a product) taken into the honey-sac would affect the tissues and kill the bee before she could store it in the hive. I have arrived at this conclusion after experimenting with several poisons, feeding them to bees by dissolving them in honey. In every instance the bee has been affected by the poison to

that extent that she was not able to return to her hive, and in most cases died within the fatal limit of the poison used. A bee is more easily affected by a poison than is a man. A solution of alcohol so weak that a man could not hold enough of it to make him dizzy, will make a bee so drunk that she cannot get home. Try it, ye Doubting Thomases, and doubt no longer. *Don't drink it yourself, but give it to the bee!*

The mountain laurel and yellow jasmine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*) are thought by many to produce poisonous nectar, simply because their leaves and bark contain a poison. There is a great deal of mountain laurel near one of my apiaries, and the yellow jasmine is seen on every hillside, and along the creeks and branches all around. On their return home it is not easy to tell which bee has visited the laurel, but every one that has been in the jasmine blossom is known by her yellow coat.

The laurel yields honey, and is visited by many bees from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Yellow jasmine blooms here from April 10 to the 20th, while several other honey-yielding trees are in bloom, and the bees seem to prefer it to any other. During this time the bees usually store some honey. This is the first honey we get, and as soon as the children find out that there is honey coming in, they want some new honey; and every year we extract some of this half-ripe, watery stuff, and we all eat of it very freely. (We didn't know it was poison.) We sell several tons of honey to our neighbors every year, but never heard of it making any one sick.

Is it not likely that Dr. Brown has mistaken a case of paralysis for gelsemium poisoning? (See page 180, Vol. XXXIV.) The symptoms are very much the same. Really, I believe that in his diagnosis of the case under consideration, he gives one symptom that is always present in paralysis, and very rarely, if ever, present in gelsemium poisoning.

Bessemer, Ala.

C. C. PARSONS.

#### ACRES OF MOUNTAIN LAUREL.

Last season I had the care of 45 colonies of bees here which increased to 52. Mountain laurel is everywhere present, and I presume there was enough in the range of my bees to cover more than 50 acres solid. The bees worked freely on it for two or three weeks in June, at the same time that clover and many other blossoms were at hand. The weather was such that but little honey was secreted in the blossoms, and no surplus was stored in the hives. There was no evidence of poisonous honey, and I do not learn that there ever has been any complaint of poisonous honey here.

The bees gathered some honey from early blossoms and poplar trees; then all at once the weather changed, and but little honey was gathered for several weeks, and the bees did not breed very fast until the sourwood blossomed in July. Then in two or three weeks the bees filled up the hives and 600 sections.

This was my first season here. A good many had told me what fine honey the sourwood was, but I felt somewhat skeptical, having always been used to clover and basswood honey. However, I found it very fine, and, Mr. Editor, if you have missed getting a taste of sourwood honey you have missed a fine treat. I believe it is as good as clover honey, and as fine looking. As it comes in warm weather in July, the comb is very delicate. It is also very light in color.

The fall flow commenced about the first of September, and continued during the month, when a frost put a sudden stop to operations. A large part of this was gathered from Spanish-needles, golden-rod, asters and heart's-ease. There was 900 pounds of this which was quite dark. Part of it was extracted. One of our dealers said he thought it was richer and better than the white honey, and I was willing to have him think so. It seems to give satisfaction, but in some Northern markets it would go begging.

The Southern markets are poor, and it would be difficult

to sell a large amount here. I did not come here to carry on the bee-business, but on account of my health.

On April 19 bees were working lively, and had brood in from five to seven frames, and looked as if they would be ready to swarm in three or four weeks.

J. L. HUBBARD.

Hendersonville, N. C.

#### A SAMPLE OF HONEY-POISONING (?)

Apropos of poisonous honey which has lately become an interesting subject, I wish to say that our doctor called to see me professionally some time ago, and brought some of the news of the neighborhood.

"I had a case of honey-poisoning on the mountains a few days ago," he said.

As we are surrounded here by thousands of acres of mountain laurel, which is given a bad name by some people, I was interested.

"Yes," he continued, "it was a very bad case. He ate honey for breakfast, and in a couple of hours he showed most pronounced symptoms, violent purging and vomiting. He has gotten over it now, but he is weak."

I am a little acquainted with mountaineers, so I said:

"Doctor, how much did he eat?"

"Something over a pint!"

JIMSON.

[It seems to us that we have now had quite a good deal of experience reported as to poisonous honey. Still, if any one can throw any new light upon the subject, we will be pleased to publish it.—EDITOR.]



### The Bee-Industry in Utah.

BY JOHN B. FAGG.

There are very few who know the extent of the bee-industry in Utah. Although it is carried on nearly all over the State, still there is not over one-fourth the honey produced that there should be. I am often asked where I sell my honey, and what I can do with it when I have a good crop. I have kept bees for 16 or 17 years, and have had honey to sell most of the time, and have not had too much. I would like to be troubled that way for once. We cannot expect to get a dollar for the same amount of honey that we could 15 years ago, neither can we get the same price for a great deal of other produce.

There is plenty of room for bee-keepers yet, for in a State like ours, where we irrigate, we are sure of a crop of honey if the farmer raises anything, and it will get better for some time to come, for every year large areas of new land are brought under cultivation, and many thousands of trees are set out every year, which helps the honey crop. We have not given the attention to bee-culture that it should have. Many of our wives and daughters might try the bee-business and make a good living out of it, if they felt so disposed, for with our improved methods of keeping bees, and movable-frame hives and bee-escapes, they could look after a few colonies, and they would find as much profit in them as they do in poultry or cows, and bees do not take as much work and attention.

If I were starting in the bee-business again, I would try to commence right. I would adopt some standard hive, and stay with it until I found something better. I would work for comb honey, for the most of it, and would only extract for the home market, or as much as I thought I could sell.

The greatest secret about bee-keeping is to keep your colonies strong; watch them in the spring, and don't let them die for the want of a little attention. Sometimes you can help a dwindling colony by taking them in time and giving them a little assistance from other colonies.

Don't try to increase too fast, and don't think that because you see queens advertised as such wonderful breeders, there are not just as good at home; and sometimes you will

find them better. Where a person has 20 or 30 colonies, there must be as much difference as there is in that many cows in regard to profit. You would raise your best calves, so you must rear your queens from your best colonies.

I am not afraid of producing too much honey, if we get it in the right shape, and of good quality, for we can find a market for a good article. Utah should export several million pounds annually, and we shall do it yet, and in the near future, I believe.

I believe in dividing rather than natural swarming, for I am not always there to watch them at the proper time, and before I am around they may be gone, although I have had some swarms come out and stay, and I always catch them if I can, and they do well as a general thing.

If any are contemplating starting to keep bees for a business, I would advise them to select some good location, and not get too near large apiaries, but get plenty of room, for bees are like sheep—the more pasture they have the larger will be the profit. If the pasture is short, there will not be much profit in keeping bees. Some times you can get a fair crop from 100 colonies, where if you had 200 colonies there would be no surplus.

I think we should have about 100 colonies at our Agricultural College for the students to play with. I think some of the students would be interested in them, and gain much information, and I don't think it would be all loss, either.

In regard to laws for the protection of bee-keepers, we should have them as simple as possible, and be made effective. I do not think any one should "kick" if their bees have foul brood to have them inspected, and a remedy prescribed for it, if it is no other than to destroy them, and in very bad cases that would be the cheapest in the long run. I know that most bee-men will see to it that they will not have diseased bees, for they know there is no money in them.

I don't care how much people spray, so that they do not spray while the trees are in bloom. I want to say one thing, and that is, I do not believe that any one ever got any benefit whatever, but it was in the opposite direction. In Utah they wear out the material used, and their time, and washed the pollen from their trees if they sprayed while the trees were in full bloom, and lost fruit by the operation.

I congratulate the bee-keepers on their success in the past, and the prospect for the future, for I think they are right, and they will yet be classed among the great producers of the State. Utah honey is very little known in the East, but what is known is that our honey compares very favorably with any that is produced in the country.

To be on the safe side, I would advise every bee-keeper to have a label or a stamp with his name and address, for you will find that good quality and neat packages will advertise you, and if you follow this plan, the market will seek you instead of you having to seek the market.

East Mill Creek, Utah.

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**Honey as Food and Medicine.**—A new and revised edition of this 32-page pamphlet is now issued. It has 5 blank pages on which to write or paste recipes taken from other sources. It is just what its name indicates, and should be liberally distributed among the people everywhere to create a demand for honey. It contains a number of recipes on the use of honey as food and as medicine, besides much other interesting and valuable information. Prices, postpaid, are: Single copy, 5 cts.; 10 copies 30 cts.; 50 for \$1.00; 100 for \$1.75. Better give them a trial. Send all orders to the Bee Journal office.

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# Questions AND Answers

CONDUCTED BY

DR. C. C. MILLER, MARENGO, ILL.

[Questions may be mailed to the Bee Journal, or to Dr. Miller direct.]

## Rearing Queens from 3-Days-Old Larvæ.

After putting a comb of sealed brood and eggs in a hive to rear a queen, how long will the eggs remain for them to rear a queen from? Can they rear a queen from the eggs after six days, allowing the eggs to be three days old when put into the hive?

J. M.

ANSWER.—No, if you put in eggs already three days old, six days later, or nine days from the time the eggs were laid, no queen can be reared from them, for in nine days from the time the eggs were laid the larvæ ought to be sealed over. To rear a good queen the larvæ ought not to be more than 3 days old—that is, six days from the time of laying the eggs. During the first three days of its existence, a larva intended for a worker is fed the same as if intended for a queen. After that time the food of the worker is changed, less concentrated, and not so fully digested, while to the queen is continued the same food it first had. To the queen, food is given so lavishly that jelly half the size of a pea is left in the cell after the queen emerges while no such wasteful feeding occurs with workers. Their rations are carefully measured out so that they have just enough to supply their wants, and not a fraction more. If to a queenless colony be given a larva four or five days old, that is, seven or eight days from the laying of the egg, the bees will rear a queen from it, but it will be a very poor queen.

## Trying to Keep Down Increase.

I thought I would keep down the increase of my colonies this year, in this manner: When the first swarm came out I gave them three frames of brood from the mother hive. The next day two swarms coming out were given the seven remaining frames, after all queen-cells had been destroyed. I thought this would work nicely, plenty of empty frames for the bees to work out their swarming-fever, and three frames of brood to keep them strong. But it did not turn out as I expected; one swarmed out in four days, and another on the seventh day. In one case I would find no queen-cells; in the other four just started, none sealed. Is this what I should have expected, or is it unusual?

I thought I had hit on a good idea, but the bees did not seem to think so.

F. T. B.

ANSWER.—Perhaps the occurrence cannot be said to be anything more than might be expected. Suppose a colony on eight frames should send out a swarm and you hive it and give it back its eight frames. You would expect nothing else than that it would swarm again. If you gave it no frames it would not swarm. Now, somewhere between no frames and eight frames I suppose the bees draw a line and say, "If you give us more than this number of frames of brood we'll swarm again;" and very likely that line may be between one frame and two frames. In other words, if you give a swarm more than one frame of brood they'll swarm out again. In some cases they might stay content if only half their frames of brood were replaced with empty frames, there being no fixed rule about it.

## Dividing a Colony—Dark Pollen.

I received two 3-frame nuclei May 8. When they arrived one was a great deal better than the other—it contained two full frames of brood, and some in the other, and they have increased so rapidly that they are now a monstrous colony, and I want to divide about June 15.

1. Now, as I am going to divide them, will it pay me better to order a queen, or divide and let the old colony rear one for themselves?

2. Would you advise me to divide the brood as nearly as

possible, or take say three frames of brood and leave the rest?

3. When I divide and take the frames of brood out, and put three frames of foundation in the old hive, would you put the three side by side, or one of foundation then one of the combs of brood, and so on?

4. What kind of a plant is it my bees are getting black, or a terribly dark-green, pollen from, between the hours of 4 and 7 in the afternoon; they carry bright yellow all the rest of the day.

H. W. S.

Baraboo, Wis.

ANSWERS.—1. That depends somewhat upon circumstances. If your time is valuable, or if you have little time to work with bees, or if you are anxious to have them build up rapidly, better buy a queen. If you are anxious to increase your practical knowledge of bee-keeping as much as possible, rear your own queen.

2. Again that depends. If you want to have one colony store as much honey as possible, and only care to have the other build up into a good colony for winter, then take three frames of brood with adhering bees for the new colony, leaving the remainder with the queen on the old stand. If you want to have the two colonies more nearly alike, take one more than half the frames of brood for the new colony, or possibly two more than half. The old colony on the old stand will have the advantage of retaining the larger force of bees.

3. With a strong colony and honey yielding well, it doesn't make a great deal of difference about the arrangement of the frames. If the colony is not strong it will be better to have the brood all together. Less danger of chilling brood in that way, and if a frame of foundation is between two frames of brood when little honey is coming in, the tendency is to make the cells of the old combs deeper, and leave the cells of the new combs shallow.

4. I don't know. The blackest pollen I ever saw was from poppies, but poppies were hardly in bloom to any extent June 1. Red clover yields dark-green pollen, but that again would hardly be worked on by the bees so early.

## Early Swarming—Remedy for Moth-Worms.

1. My colony of bees that were swarmed March 31, 1896, sent out a new swarm last Thursday (May 14). Is this not something unusual, to send out a swarm so soon? Some one may say that it was the swarm of March 31 leaving, but not so, for there is a strong working force yet. The box that they were housed in is, in the clear, 23x10x11½ inches, and, from its weight, seems to be full of honey. The last swarm fled away to the woods. There are large quantities of mesquite and horsemint (both fine nectar-producing plants) now in bloom.

2. I enclose the following clipping from a Beeville, Tex., paper—is the suggestion practical?

"Hives of black bees can be saved from the ravages of the moth-worm by scattering salt over the floor of the hive. It is there the moth lays her eggs which hatch out young worms, that as soon as they are able to crawl go up into the cells where the young bees are and eat them out. The worms grow rapidly, and soon destroy a colony of bees. I tried it on some of our bees last year, and they are all doing well, but those that were not so treated are all gone.—ESTELLA."

Mathias, Tex.

Mrs. M. M. D.

ANSWERS.—1. Yes, it would be called a very remarkable case in some places, but in others not so very unusual.

2. It may be that colonies in hives treated with salt lived while those left without treatment died, but that does not make it certain that the salt had anything to do with it. I've known hundreds of colonies to live all right without salt, and if a weak, queenless colony of black bees should have salt an inch deep on its floor-board, I should be afraid the combs would fall a prey to the wax-worms. Neither do all the worms that are found in combs climb up from the floor-board. Take a hive of combs left by a colony that died in early spring, and set it on a slab of solid salt and when warm weather comes if you don't find worms hatching out from eggs in the combs, I shall be very much surprised.

**A New Binder** for holding a year's numbers of the American Bee Journal, we propose to mail, postpaid, to every subscriber who sends us 15 cents. It is called "The Wood Binder," is patented, and is an entirely new and very simple arrangement. Full printed directions accompany each Binder. Every reader should get it, and preserve the copies of the Bee Journal as fast as they are received. They are invaluable for reference, and at the low price of the Binder you can afford to get it yearly.

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## EDITORIAL COMMENT

**Dark Honey**—either comb or extracted—can scarcely be sold at any price in the Chicago market. Don't ship it, expecting to get very much for it. Better forward a sample first, and get a quotation for it before sending a whole shipment. If at all possible dispose of all dark grades of honey in the home market. Only the tempting white honey is sought for in city markets, and brings the best price.

**Don't Make a Mistake** this year, and send your honey to some unreliable city commission firm. Better take two or three cents a pound less for your honey than to ship it any great distance to market, and run the risk of leakage, breakage, and paying high commissions. Supply the home demand first, by all means, and make some effort to enlarge it. Many families do not know how healthful honey is, and need only to be assured of the fact, when they will become regular users of it.

**The North American at Lincoln.**—The Secretary of the North American Bee-Keepers' Association informs us that the Executive Committee, after conferring with the Nebraska bee-keepers, have decided that the next meeting of the Association will be held at Lincoln, Nebr. The time for the meeting will be made known as soon as arrangements for reduced railroad rates have been completed.

We are glad the matter has now been definitely settled. We presume the Nebraska friends are happy. 'Tis all right. It will be a good meeting. And the hospitality will be of the finest. We saw it published somewhere that all who attend from outside of that State will be entertained free during the convention. That's too generous, altogether, and we fear somebody will regret having made that offer. But it's good enough for those too-open-hearted Nebraska bee-keepers. Perhaps next time they'll favor going with the Grand Army. At any rate, we hope that just as many as possible living outside of that State will go, for we don't know of a better way to "get even" with them than for about 500 good-sized bee-keepers, with well-developed appetites, to be present at the convention, and take in just as much as possible of the hospitality and sights.

**Present Prospects for Honey** seem to be very good in many localities. In the last issue of *Farm, Stock and Home*, Mr. B. Taylor, of Forestville, Minn., has this encouraging paragraph:

Rain, rain, rain has been the word here for weeks, and Mother Earth is again full to overflowing. The honey-plants are just blooming everywhere, and the bees are in the best condition we ever had a like number at this season. We expect a big honey crop, and are getting everything in prime order so there may be no loss from neglect.

Loss from neglect! Who'd be guilty of that after so many poor seasons? What a pity it would be, if a good crop were at hand, and the bee-keepers had neglected to make full preparation for harvesting it! Oh, no; every one will have his "dish right side up" this year. Just let the "honey-shower" come on.

**In Mailing Queens**, says the Bee-Keepers' Review, it is important that the right number of bees of the proper age be put into the cage. Willie Atchley says that in a small cage in summer weather, six are sufficient. In a large cage, eight or nine are enough. In the fall and spring he would put in twice that number. Don't pick out the large, old bees that are filled with honey. When confined in the cage they have no opportunity to clear themselves, and do not live long. He would use thrifty young bees that are old enough to have been once filled with honey. Select bees that are slim and gaunt. Such are empty and cannot fill themselves with the candy sufficiently to injure themselves. Never put in a bee that has stung you, as it will soon die, and is quite likely to get stuck fast in the entrance to the food chamber.

**Carelessness** is found among bee-keepers as well as elsewhere. We have just received a letter from "Alexander," with no State or even name and address of the writer given. Of course we can do nothing with it until we get another letter from the same writer, who will likely "kick" because we do not reply to his former letter, when we have no means of knowing who the man is, or in what State he lives. Be careful *always* to sign your name to a letter, and also give your address in full.

**No Slipshod Work**, or lack of careful work, will go in these days of close competition. Did you, last year, put your comb honey on the market without scraping well every section? If so, don't be guilty of such carelessness or laziness again. Attractiveness is almost everything in comb honey. No neat and tidy housekeeper wants to buy honey in a section that is covered with propolis, or that is otherwise dingy and coarse in appearance. It will pay to put only the neatest and nicest sections of honey on the market.

**Past and Present of Bee-Keeping.**—On page 163, Mr. G. M. Doolittle has an article on this subject. Editor Holtermann, of the Canadian Bee Journal, copied the article entire in his May number, and made the following editorial comments thereon:

If our readers will study that article first, they will better understand what we are about to say. Mr. Doolittle wants to know if the depreciation in price is not due to over-production. In reply to that first question we would say that when some of our best bee-keepers say they would sooner produce a pound of honey than a pound of pork (and pork is quoted at present at \$4.75 per hundred), we can hardly say that there is over-production. One of the essential characteristics of over-production, in our estimation, is having to produce an article and sell it so as not to leave a living profit. We find cases in which people have sold honey at very low figures, but that does not necessarily prove over-production. It may show that the man has not found the best way of marketing his honey, or that owing to carelessness or ignorance, or disadvantage of locality or season, he has produced an inferior



article. Again, without being justified in using the term over-production, there is in almost every business "the survival of the fittest," and in that management and locality plays an important part.

What has brought diminished prices to-day is the fact that \$1.00 will go further to-day than it would in 1874. Take that very American Bee Journal—in those days it cost, monthly, \$1.00 or \$2.00, where to-day you can get it weekly for \$1.00. You can get a much better suit of clothes for \$10.00 to-day than you could in 1874; bee-supplies are less, and so on. Again, every one admits there was big money in bee-keeping in those days. Those who engage in a new business at that stage say it is a reward for shrewdness and quickness to perceive an opening for business. The same man, if another man engages in the business, and he is the buyer, calls it "highway robbery prices," and so on, but as more engage in it, prices come down to something like a living profit.

As a study was made of bee-keeping, increase was kept down, comb foundation was used more freely, the value of shade and ventilation was, by some at least, known; we were able to produce for much less money, and yet make the same profit. As men learned better methods of wintering, and were more certain to bring their bees out strong in the spring they could produce for less money. These are only directions in which every business must go without arriving at the stage of over-production.

But there is still another point to which we must draw attention: Can we say that we have over-production before we have developed and cultivated our markets to the fullest extent? We think not. Bee-keepers have gone on, and on, producing, yet they have made little or no efforts to increase the demand for honey. Here and there, true, an individual has made the effort, but he has become discouraged through lack of assistance from those who benefit as much as himself. He has done it without remuneration beyond what all other bee-keepers would receive through his efforts, and the necessity of winning bread for himself has prevented continuing that work.

United States bee-keepers could well combine, and engage the services of not one man, but several men, whose duty it would be through press and tongue to put the advantages to be derived from the use of honey before the public. We know of extensive manufacturers who guard the fact they use honey in the preparation of their products as a trade secret, and they will, and have been known to, purchase no more from those who mentioned the fact to rival manufacturers to secure further trade. Amongst such men are confectioners, bakers, vinegar makers, liquor and beverage manufacturers, tobaccoists, and makers of printers' rollers. Here is a vast field to work on, as yet almost untouched.

Again, few are using as a table article honey—one of the most wholesome and pleasant of foods. The people could be educated and induced to use 1,000 pounds where they use one to-day. This can be done by judicious items constantly supplied to the press; it is a case of "keeping everlastingly at it brings success." Keep honey before the people, in the paper, in the stores, and at the table, and success is as certain as it is sure that daylight follows darkness.

We have before spoken of educating and inducing the public to use honey. Honey at present prices is an economic and valuable food—one which has a right to appear on the poor man's table, but during and since the days of ancient history it has been looked upon in the light which honey is, will suffer very much from the suspicion of adulteration. Much of that suspicion is unjust; it is in part owing to the finish and perfection of comb and extracted honey, the quantity produced, and ignorance about bee-keeping, that the idea is gaining ground. We can get nothing more powerful and quicker in action in returning confidence than Legislatures making adulteration a severe offence. A copy of such an Act upon the package, to spread the fact abroad that such an Act exists, will give confidence as nothing else can; and if needed, will apply the blister which will correct any evil tendency.

No, Mr. Doolittle, we do not think any one is justified in throwing the blame on over-production. Take action, or get your Government to take action, along the above lines, and bee-keeping will have a new era of prosperity. Let the development of markets go hand in hand with the development of bee-keeping.

R. F. HOLTERMANN.

—♦♦♦—  
**The McEvoy Foul Brood Treatment** is given in Dr. Howard's pamphlet on "Foul Brood; Its Natural History and Rational Treatment." It is the latest publication on the subject, and should be in the hands of every bee-keeper. Price, 25 cents; or clubbed with the Bee Journal for one year—both for \$1.10.

## PERSONAL MENTION.

MR. B. TAYLOR, of Forestville, Minn., is very sick. So reported his son, Jewell Taylor, on June 1. We trust he may soon recover, as he has under way some interesting experiments that he had hoped would decide some important apicultural questions.

DR. C. C. MILLER, of Marengo, Ill., called on us for an hour on Tuesday, June 2, when on his way home from the Presbyterian Assembly which had just closed its meeting at Saratoga Springs, N. Y. The Doctor was feeling well, and ready to pitch into the neglected bee-work, as soon as he should reach home.

MR. THOS. PIERREPONT, of Rochester, N. Y., wrote us on Dec. 30, 1895: "I consider the American Bee Journal the best bee-paper in the world; one reason being that it is all bees."

MR. VERNON BURT, of Mallett Creek, O., was "pictured" in last Gleanings. He has about 250 colonies of bees, and bears the unusual "distinction of securing a crop of honey every year." Yet, he's too modest to come out and tell how he does it. Editor Root says, "although he's within a year of 40, he has not yet taken unto himself a wife." Also, that he feels sorry for Mr. Burt, "and for the nice girl that—that—well, ought to have him." There's a chance for Rambler to get some sympathy!

MRS. B. J. LIVINGSTON, of Center Chain, Minn., wrote us as follows, May 30:

I send you to-day a sprig of basswood, showing the advanced state of buds, considering the date, also the "promise of plenty." From July 1 to the 10 is the usual time of blossoming in southern Minnesota. I am glad to say the bees are doing well. I am sorry to say it is on mustard.

MRS. LIVINGSTON.

The sprig of basswood was duly received. It is the same way in this locality—being two weeks or more in advance of ordinary years.

MR. PAUL WHITEBREAD, of Hobbie, Pa., said recently: "I have all of my 1895 copies of the Bee Journal, and would not part with them for a five-dollar bill. The index in the last number for December is as well put up as I ever saw anything of its kind. I am very much pleased with the Bee Journal, and trust it may live long."

SECRETARY DR. A. B. MASON, of the North American, has been accidentally trying the bee-sting remedy for rheumatism, and in a letter dated June 1, wrote as follows:

"For nearly a week previous to last Wednesday, nearly all the pain I suffered was in my instep. On that day I was sitting in a neighbor's apiary (he has my bees on shares this season) to watch for swarms while he was absent. As a swarm was issuing I hobbled along to secure the queen. I put my "game" (lame) foot, on which I had a black sock and a low slipper, close to the entrance of an adjoining hive. In a jiffy three or four bees had given my painful instep as many hypodermic injections. On the instant I thought of what some one had recently said about his sciatica and bee-stings, and I let the stingers alone until I had secured the queen. I was almost immediately relieved of the pain in my instep, and in a few minutes I could stamp my foot quite firmly on the ground without pain, which I had not been able to do before for several weeks. Last night, pain in the same instep was a little annoying, and if it doesn't behave itself in good style in the future, more bees will have to be sacrificed for 'suffering humanity.'"

We hope the Doctor will let the bees "keep at him" until they have effected a complete cure.

See "Bee-Keeper's Guide" offer on page 380.

## General Items.

### Clover Seems to Have No Nectar.

So far my bees have not commenced to store any honey. There is but little clover, and what there is seems to have no nectar in it, owing, I think, to the wet weather. MATHILDA CANDLER.  
Cassville, Wis., May 25.

### Wintered All Right.

Bees wintered all right in the cellar, and were in good condition this spring. The flowers have been badly whipped to pieces by rain and wind. No swarms yet, but they will all swarm as soon as we have settled weather.

J. V. B. HERRICK.  
Champlin, Minn., May 25.

### Severe Spring for Bees.

We are having a late spring, and it has been rather severe on bees. There seems to have been some loss in the spring through not being a sufficient amount of August and September bees to live through. It would have been all right if the spring had been a nice one.

GEO. E. DUDLEY.  
Provo, Utah, May 24.

### A Hopeful California Bee-Keeper.

The prospect for a large crop of honey is not good, as I am feeding my bees at this time. The weather has been cold and windy, and bees have stored very little honey this month—not half as much as they have consumed; but we are yet hopeful that the weather will change soon, and bees will go to work again.

JOHN YEARGIN.  
Fresno, Calif., May 21.

### Have Not Swarmed in 8 Years.

My bees are doing first-rate. They came through the winter all right, but there is one thing that I cannot account for, and that is, my bees have not swarmed in eight years, neither have I divided any. I have two places where I keep bees, about 5 miles apart. I use the extractor, and increase my bees by buying them, or getting them out of the woods.

C. A. FINGER.  
Marissa, Ill., May 25.

### Basswood the Only Prospect.

Bees wintered well, and the weather is favorable for them. They are strong, with plenty of bees, but they have nothing to do, as there is no white or red clover here this spring—it all dried up last summer. The only prospect for honey is the basswood, which will bloom well, if it does not rain too much. When that comes, we may get a little, if the bees don't swarm too much. I have had no swarms yet, and do not want any, for I have enough bees now, and to spare.

M. J. KISTLER.  
Collingwood, Ind., May 26.

### The Gila Farm Apiaries.

The first swarm issued April 28, and a number since. Bees are gathering honey principally from the wild poppy. Windy days have been a great drawback

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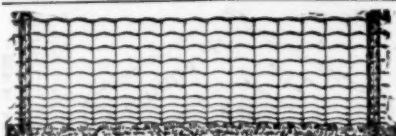
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8A26t **J. D. GIVENS, Lisbon, Tex.**  
Mention the American Bee Journal.

up to date, since the season opened. We had a light frost last week. Alfalfa and other vegetation is very backward. One case of bee-paralysis was discovered last week. Alfalfa does not secrete honey until it is in bloom about ten days, when, by that time, a great deal of it is cut for hay, then the chances for honey are gone. Prospects for a good season are encouraging. March and April were the hardest months on the bees in this locality. **SIGEL BRAUTIGAM.**  
Cliff, New Mex., May 18.

## Rolling in the Sweets.

What bees are kept here are just rolling in the sweets. **S. H. CLARK.**  
Elwood, Iowa, June 4.

## Just Rolled in the Honey.

Bees have just rolled in the honey in this section this season, and we have white clover, basswood, sourwood, and the fall flowers yet to hear from; and the best part of all—the bees are not swarming—too busy, I reckon.

I don't think it economy for any bee-keeper to do without the American Bee Journal, for I have tried it six months.

**M. D. ANDES.**

Bristol, Tenn., June 4.

## Bountiful Crops Expected.

We have had no crops for two years here, but the prospects are now for a bountiful crop this year. We have had more rain already this spring than we have had since 1891. Bees wintered well, coming through without loss. In the spring of 1895 we had a dust and snow storm that drowned all but one colony, which I divided July 4, and made three out of it; two swarms came to me, so I have five to commence with this year. I winter them on the summer stands, boxed up and packed with chaff, facing the east. **J. A. HOGG.**  
Shelton, Nebr., May 23.

## Bright Prospects.

Everything looks bright for a good honey season, but I would have to throw up my hand without the American Bee Journal. **HENRY R. ELSMLIE.**

Richmond Hill, N. Y., May 26.

## Bees Poorly Cared For.

Last winter and the early spring months of this year were very bad for bees about the country near here, judging by the number of colonies that died. I have been to several apiaries within six miles of here, and have talked with several bee-keepers whose apiaries I have not visited, and all have lost—some only a few, others all, and at one apiary that I visited 13 colonies had died out of 18. In this last apiary, the colonies were left on the summer stands in single-walled hives, and the only protection (?) was a 25 or 30 pound stone right on top of the 3/4-inch cover; 2 or 3 colonies had been in double-walled hives and packed with leaves, so the owner said, but there were about enough leaves in the whole hive to pack one side. One hive had the entrance-blocks contracted so that only about 1 1/2 inches of an entrance remained for the bees. The dead bees in this hive had blocked up the

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carried it out where the queen took flight. The bees in the cage might have flown away if they had been disposed, but they stuck to the cage. In a few minutes the queen returned, and lit on the cage, when I caught her again, and this time I carried her to the box.

This is the first time I have tried to handle a queen. After this I think I will be more careful, as I do not believe that queens will always come back to my hands after they have once made their escape.

We are just at the end of more than a week of rainy weather. This is the first sunshiny day since a week ago last Monday. The prospect is good for a good deal of white clover bloom this season.

EDWIN BEVINS.

Leon, Iowa, May 21.

## Good Honey Crop Promised.

Bees have wintered well in this section, and a good honey crop is promised for this year.

F. G. WILKE.

Wilcox, Nebr., June 1.

## Honey Outlook Not Promising.

The honey outlook here is not promising. One may, however, learn something from a paper like the American Bee Journal in times of failure as well as in times of success.

BRUNO NICKEL.

Acton, Calif., May 25.

## Bees Booming.

Bees are just booming here now. I expect to get over 100 pounds to the colony, spring count. Linden and sourwood, and also sumac, are to bloom yet. I will probably report when the season is over.

A. CARDER.

Tracy City, Tenn., May 29.

## A Successful Season Expected.

Bees have not done anything here for the last two years. I have 20 colonies, wintered the best that I ever had any in the cellar, with empty supers on the hive, and only a board cover over them. They are booming now, having just begun to work on white clover. I am looking for better success this year.

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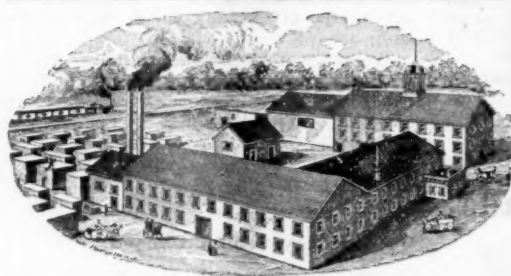
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Prof. A. J. Cook—I think the California and Michigan laws good.

J. M. Hambaugh—I have as yet had no experience with foul brood.

Dr. J. P. H. Brown—Too big a question to answer under this head.

G. M. Doolittle—"Do unto others as you would have others do unto you."

C. H. Dibbern—I don't know, as I have had no experience with foul brood.

B. Taylor—I have had no experience with foul brood, and do not know the requirements.

W. G. Larrabee—I will let some one answer this that knows more about such things than I do.

Dr. C. C. Miller—Compulsory report of every case, and compulsory cure or destruction of each case.

R. L. Taylor—If you take the law of Michigan against "yellows" in peaches as a model, you cannot go far wrong.

P. H. Elwood—Inspector to stamp all broad-chambers containing foul brood, and when he finds the same infected another season he is to burn them.

N. E. France—1. A State Inspector, chosen by the State Bee-Keepers' Society, and appointed by the Governor. 2. A foul brood law, much like the Ontario foul brood law. 3. Any bee-keeper in the State having diseased bees, or know-

ing of any diseased, to report to the inspector for instructions. 4. To enforce the law which protects the industry. It is not necessary to destroy by fire, but thorough treatment is needed, and that in proper time.

Rev. M. Mahin—I am not sufficiently posted to comply. I am blissfully ignorant concerning foul brood. There has never been any of it in this part of the country.

G. W. Demaree—We don't want any statutory law on the subject. If men's own interests fail to guard their industries, law will be a failure, except to foster tyranny, and "beastly" interference with individual rights.

Allen Pringle—Our Ontario Foul Brood Act (which I had a hand in drafting) is said to be the best in existence—at any rate, our Foul Brood Inspector says it is "the best in the world," and that he can "beat the world" in curing foul brood under it.

J. E. Pond—Not being familiar with the laws of Wisconsin, I can't give essentials that I should consider of value, except to attach a heavy penalty to willful violation. A commission should form part of such a law, in order that honest ignorance could not be confounded with willfulness.

James A. Stone—To provide a competent inspector (to be appointed or approved by the bee-keepers' associations) who shall have a salary large enough so that he can be expected to spend all his time if needed. And in addition a fund to be drawn from to pay one-half value of the colonies he may deem best to destroy.

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The following rules for grading honey were adopted by the North American Bee-Keepers' Association, and, so far as possible, quotations, are made according to these rules:

**FANCY**.—All sections to be well filled; combs straight, of even thickness, and firmly attached to all four sides; both wood and comb unsoiled by travel-stain, or otherwise; all the cells sealed except the row of cells next the wood.

**No. 1**.—All sections well filled, but combs uneven or crooked, detached at the bottom, or with but few cells unsealed; both wood and comb unsoiled by travel-stain or otherwise.

In addition to this the honey is to be classified according to color, using the terms white, amber and dark. That is, there will be "fancy white," "No. 1 dark," etc.

**CHICAGO, ILL., June 6.**—We quote: Fancy white, 14@15c.; No. 1, 12@13c.; fancy amber, 9@10c.; No. 1, 8@8½c.; fancy dark, 8@9c.; No. 1, 8c. Extracted, white, 5@7c.; amber, 4@5c.

**Beeswax**, 27@28c. It continues to sell well and there is no accumulation of shipments. We consider it a good time to sell.

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**PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Apr. 22.**—We quote: No. 1 white, 9@10c.; fancy amber, 8@9c.; fancy dark, 7@8c. Extracted, white clover, 10c.; amber, 5@5½c.; dark, 4@4½c. Beeswax, 25@26c. Comb honey is dull. Extracted in fair demand. Beeswax lower. W. A. S.

**BUFFALO, N. Y., Apr. 20.**—We quote: Fancy white, 15@16c.; No. 1 white, 13@14c.; fancy dark, 8@9c.; No. 1 dark, 7@7½c. Beeswax, 25@28c. Trade very dull and honey not moving, except a few fancy lots; anything dark is hard to sell. B. & Co.

**CINCINNATI, O., Apr. 22.**—There is no fancy white comb honey on our market. Best white sells at 12@14c. in a jobbing way, with a fair demand. Demand is good for extracted at 4@7c., according to quality.

Beeswax is in good demand at 25@30c. for good to choice yellow. C. F. M. & S.

**KANSAS CITY, Mo., May 20.**—We quote: No. 1 white, 13@14c.; No. 1 amber, 10@12c.; No. 1, dark, 8@10c. Extracted, white, 6c.; amber, 5c.; dark, 4c. Beeswax, 22c. C. C. C. & Co.

**NEW YORK, N. Y., May 9.**—There is some demand for white comb honey at unchanged prices. No market for buckwheat. Extracted remains quiet. New Southern is now arriving and selling at 5@6c. for fine grades and 5@5½c. a gallon for fair to common. Beeswax easy at 28@29c. H. B. & S.

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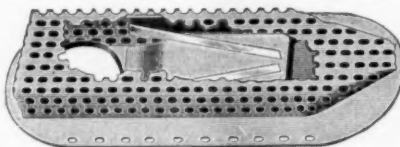
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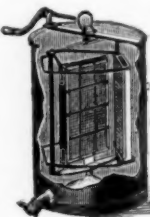
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